

PATENT CLAIMS

1. A data organization system having

- at least one data classification structure for
5 describing a classification system with user-definable classification elements which have a user-definable relationship with one another;

- one or more application programs which can use access means to access the data classification structure and which have a program-internal data representation structure with classification elements,
10 said classification elements incorporating or being able to incorporate resources;

15 where the data representation structure of an application program has been synchronized with the data classification structure or can be synchronized with the data classification structure by the application program.

20 2. The data organization system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the access means have a functionality which is built into each of the application programs.

25 3. The data organization system as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the access means have an operating system component which can access the data classification structure and has a function interface,
30 and the functionality built into the application programs is function calls to the function interface.

35 4. The data organization system as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the operating system component is a dynamic link library with an "application programming interface", and the function calls are calls to the "application programming interface".

5. The data organization system as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the operating system component is a program, and the function calls are program calls with parameter transfers.

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6. The data organization system as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the program is a database system, and the data classification structure is managed by the database system.

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7. The data organization system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the relationship between the classification elements comprises their sequence and their hierarchical arrangement.

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8. The data organization system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the data classification structure is a file which contains a structured list containing entries showing the classification elements and their relationship with one another, where the relationship is shown by an arrangement of the classification elements within the file.

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9. The data organization system as claimed in claim
8, characterized in that the file is an XML file.

10. The data organization system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the resources in the data representation structure can be objects in file systems, objects in files, data records in databases and objects in computer networks.

11. The data organization system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the access means have

- means for receiving instructions from application programs which relate to the interrogation and/or

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- manipulation of the data classification structure;
 - means for reading and/or manipulating the classification elements contained in the data classification structure and their relationship
5 using the instructions received; and
 - means for transferring data classification structure data which have been read to the interrogating application program.
- 10 12. The data organization system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that at least one of the application programs has functions for creating and manipulating the classification elements of the data classification structure and their relationships with
15 one another.
13. The data organization system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that a special program has functions for managing the data classification
20 structure.
14. The data organization system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that it is a computer program product whose constituents are at least in part
25 able to be loaded directly into the main memory of a digital data processing installation and whose program constituents can be executed by the data processing installation.
- 30 15. A method for classification structure management having the following steps:
 - an application program reads a data classification structure for describing a classification system with user-definable classification elements which
35 have a user-definable relationship with one another;
 - a program-internal data representation structure with classification elements incorporating or able

to incorporate resources is read;

- differences are established between the data classification structure and the program-internal data representation structure; and
 - 5 - the data classification structure and the program-internal data representation structure are synchronized in terms of their respective classification elements and their relationship with one another.

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16. The method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the synchronization is alignment of the program-internal data representation structure with the data classification structure.

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17. The method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the synchronization is alignment of the data classification structure with the program-internal data representation structure.

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18. The method as claimed in one of claims 15 to 17, characterized in that, before the data classification structure is read for the first time, the following step is performed by one of the application programs or a specific application program:

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- the user-definable data classification structure is created.

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